

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, SNAR

SUBJECT: EUR REGIONAL NARCOTICS CONFERENCE

1. EUR HAS AGREED TO SPONSOR A REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATORS NEXT SEPTEMBER 21-22. LONDON IS CONSIDERED A MOST SUITABLE AND ECONOMICAL LOCATION. A SIMILAR MEETING WAS HELD LAST SEPTEMBER AT PARIS.
2. THIS CONFERENCE WOULD INVOLVE ATTENDANCE BY NARCOTICS COORDINATORS FROM MOST BUT NOT ALL EMBASSIES IN EUR AREA, AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES FROM WASHINGTON AGENCIES INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS CONTROL. WE ALSO EXPECT PARTICIPATION BY DEA REPRESENTATIVES ASSIGNED TO EUR POSTS.
3. EUR WOULD FUND ATTENDANCE OF EMBASSY COORDINATORS AND EUR PARTICIPANTS; ALL OTHER PARTICIPANTS WOULD FINANCE THEIR OWN ATTENDANCE.
4. PURPOSE OF THIS SECOND EUR NARCOTICS CONFERENCE WOULD BE TO PRESENT WASHINGTON POLICY BRIEFING AND EXCHANGE VIEWS

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REGARDING NARCOTICS CONTROL PROBLEMS, WHICH CONTINUE TO BE A

TOP-PRIORITY FOREIGN POLICY ISSUE; TO REVIEW PATTERN OF ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC AND ABUSE IN EUROPE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR US POLICY AND FOR AGENCY AND EMBASSY ACTIVITIES.

5. DEPARTMENT SEEKS EMBASSY CONCURRENCE IN PROVIDING FACILITIES TO HOLD THIS TWO-DAY MEETING AT LONDON IN SEPTEMBER. OUR PRESENT ESTIMATE IS THAT AROUND 60 PERSONS WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETINGS, A REDUCTION BY ONE-THIRD OF THE TOTAL ATTENDANCE LAST YEAR.

6. IF EMBASSY CONCURS WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY SUGGESTIONS ON ARRANGEMENTS AND HOUSING. IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES WE WOULD PROCEED TO PLAN CONTENT OF MEETING AND CIRCULARIZE ALL PARTICIPATING POSTS WITH DRAFT AGENDA FOR COMMENT. KISSINGER

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